

Press Release – 25 March 2010

Distance and Sensibility

9 APRIL – 13 JUNE 2010

(Private View Thursday 8 April)

Calvert22 is delighted to present *Distance and Sensibility*, featuring work by **Pavel Büchler**, **Ergin Çavuşoğlu**, **Margarita Gluzberg**, **Marysia Lewandowska** and **Lily Markiewicz** and curated by David Thorp. Each of the five artists taking part in *Distance and Sensibility* originates from a different part of Eastern Europe and Russia and they have each, for different reasons, decided to settle in the UK. This exhibition will examine the sensibility that such movement has engendered in the work of these artists.

The spread of people around the globe has proved fertile ground for artists both as individuals as well as collectively. Frequently the focus in the West is on the Asian or African Diasporas but the largest dispersion of peoples around the world after the Chinese originates in Poland. However, the exhibition acknowledges that there is much more to the production of art than concerns with individual identity and considers the work of these artists as part of the global phenomenon that is contemporary art. The exhibition does not seek to address the position of the migrant from a sentimental or nostalgic point of view or as an extension of the notion of the "other". It instead invites the audience to reflect upon how the sensibilities that led to the production of these works were formed.

Czech-born **Pavel Büchler** examines the way art has the ability to alter perceptions of seemingly ordinary objects and events. Büchler's rebellious spirit has contributed to the way in which he thinks about art. Combined with an acute intellect, it establishes a synergy that identifies his brand of wry conceptualism that is witty but challenges the viewer.

Ergin Çavuşoğlu, originally from Bulgaria, creates complex video installations exploring themes of transition, migration, globalisation and belonging. His images sometimes portray a narrative but equally they may not, expressing instead an atmosphere or mood. *Fog Walking*, 2007 is a single channel video shot along the French coast of Biscay near the border of Spain. This enigmatic seascape, shrouded in fog, evokes an atmosphere that, for all its mysterious beauty, employs the vocabulary of mainstream film as much as the conventions of romantic painting, but is ensconced in an idea about the indistinct quality of displacement as an allegory for migration.

Through her work in performance, sound installation, painting and large-scale drawings, Russian artist **Margarita Gluzberg** weaves together the themes of consumer culture, fashion, sport, Romanticism and desire. For *Distance and Sensibility*, Gluzberg will show *Captive Bird Society*, 2009 a performance as sculpture, sound piece and installation that creates a sonic and visual landscape that deals with the mechanics of capture. Several old style record players of the kind made to play 78rpm records are displayed at different heights to make an assembled formal sculpture while each plays a separate recording of bird song. These early recordings serve in the work as metaphors for entrapment and desire.

Polish-born **Marysia Lewandowska** places an emphasis on research, creating works that deconstruct and question social practices through film and sound installation. Her new installation, *Museum Vocabularies 1966 -1992* extends her *Tender Museum* project, 2009/10 looking closely at the way in which the life of an individual is informed by and in turn informs our understanding of cultural institutions. This is part of a larger narrative she is constructing,

taking as its source the activities of Muzeum Sztuki in Łódź, Poland and the travels around Europe of former director Ryszard Stanisławski. For *Distance and Sensibility* Lewandowska will present a slide show of archived documents including photographs taken on Stanisławski's travels around Europe in his role as director. As a picture of a particular moment in the European history it challenges many preconceptions about the lack of engagement and cultural isolation of Poland during Communist rule.

German-born artist **Lily Markiewicz** explores displacement, language and territory through the media of video, photography and sound. She depicts everyday, domestic images that can be read as simultaneously familiar and foreign to the viewer. Her work is rooted in a history of migration, placelessness and the act of remembering. For Markiewicz, the function and even purpose of memory are both theme and question. *Tarkovsky's Mirror (1-2-3, 2010* takes the form of a triptych comprised of three diptychs. Each diptych is made from a combination of found objects, photographic images and video in order to investigate the often-obscure relationship of reality to fantasy and memory, and the role they play in our understanding of the world and our place in it.

Notes to Editors:

About Calvert22

Calvert22 is a registered charity. Founded by Russian economist Nonna Materkova, and under the artistic direction of David Thorp, Calvert22 opened in London in May 2009 and is the UK's first not-for-profit foundation specialising in contemporary art from Russia and Eastern Europe. Calvert22 presents four to five curated exhibitions each year, and is currently developing an education and talks programme, with the aim of promoting Russia and Eastern Europe's rich contemporary art culture.

Visitor Information

Address: 22 Calvert Avenue, London E2 7JP

Opening Hours: Wednesday – Saturday: 10am – 6pm; Sunday: 11am – 5pm

Admission: Free

Contact: +44 (0) 20 7613 2141 | info@calvert22.org

Nearest Tube: Old St / Liverpool St

Website: www.calvert22.org



Margarita Gluzberg
Captive Bird Society, 2009
Record players, performative installation
Courtesy of the artist
(Installation view: MacVal Museum, Paris 2009 © Thierry Bal)



Pavel Büchler
Bloom Stool, 1973
Speaker, studio stool, tape recorder, audio tape
Courtesy of Tanya Leighton Gallery, Berlin